



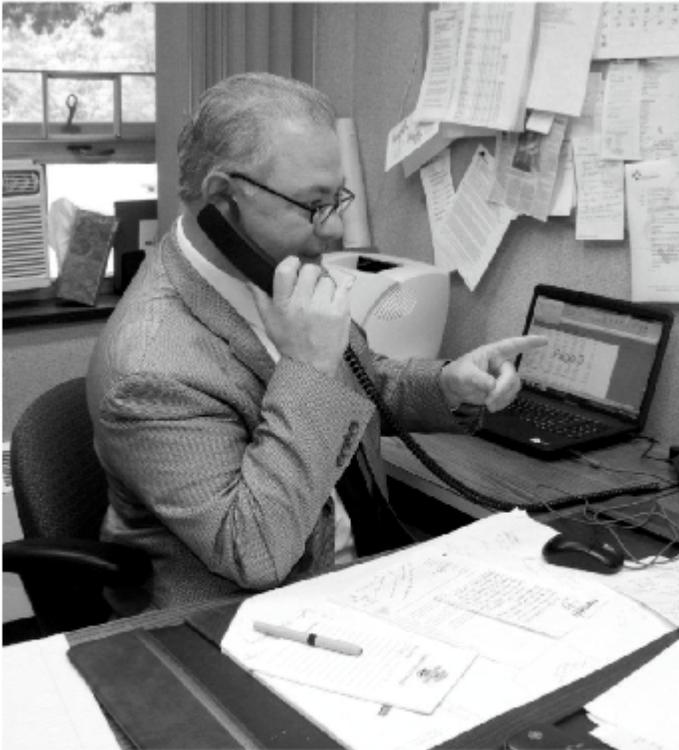
# TOWN TALK

News from the Town of Elmira

F A L L - W I N T E R 2 0 1 3

Number 36

## GREETINGS & GREAT NEWS



*Town Supervisor, David P. Sullivan*

As I lay pen to page the town board recently adopted the 2014 preliminary budget. I am pleased to report that the town tax levy will fall for a fourth consecutive year. The 2014 levy is **down** 2.19% from 2013. I believe this is great news for everyone.

Included in this issue of Town Talk is a brief survey. Please take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts about the town's deer population. In September, about fifty residents turned out for our town board meeting to hear Art Kirsch, senior wildlife biologist with the New York State DEC Bureau of Wildlife.

Kirsch gave a very detailed presentation on the subject, including examples of how other communities have addressed their deer populations; he stressed that any action **MUST** be community-driven and community-supported. That's why **YOUR INPUT MATTERS**. The Town of Elmira will do what it can in response to an agreed-upon plan set forth by its citizens.

As the town continues its quest to control costs through shared service agreements with other municipalities I am pleased to report that effective October 1, 2013 the Town of Elmira and the Town of Horseheads will share an Assessor. Melanie VanNoy (formerly Purcell) will be in our town on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Her secretary, Becky Carpenter, is available to answer your questions when Melanie is out of the office.

As always, the work continues and I welcome your comments and suggestions at [dsullivan@townofelmira.com](mailto:dsullivan@townofelmira.com).

## SEASONAL SHORTS

### From Code Officer, Chip LeValley...

#### Play it Safe

As the temperatures cool and the heat comes on, please remember carbon monoxide detectors are required in the lowest sleeping level of any home heated by, or that has natural gas, propane, oil, wood, or coal-fired appliances. Smoke detectors are required in every bedroom.



#### Time to Go

All political signs should be removed no later than one week after the general election.

### Protecting Your Investment

The town is known for its beautifully-maintained facilities. In an attempt to keep them that way we'll mount new, closed-circuit television cameras on the pool bathhouse for surveillance of the resurfaced tennis courts and bathroom entrance area.



Matt Mustico

### From Highway Superintendent, Matt Mustico...

#### Thank You

It was a very long construction season and once again, town residents were patient and pleasant, allowing us to get a great deal done. We appreciate it!

#### Planning for Pick-Ups

Fall leaf pick-up runs through December 6th (weather permitting). If you're on Church or Water Street please leave the piles between curb and sidewalk, wherever you live PLEASE AVOID STORM DRAINS. Christmas Tree pick-ups runs from 12/26 through the end of January. The compost pit will close December 6th and reopen in the spring.

### From Police Chief Pete Michalko...

**This Year, West Elmira Police headed back to school at Hendy!** Since September, officers have provided a friendly presence in the school building and outside. They have also helped with traffic control at arrival and dismissal.

### Attention East Hill Residents

The speed limit on Co. Rt. 60 has been amended to 40 mph for the entire length of the Town of Elmira. Chemung County Sheriffs monitor this roadway.

### In Memoriam - Kum (Kim) DiNardo

Elmira: Age 79, passed away Monday, September 2, 2013. Kim was born April 19, 1934 in Seoul, South Korea, daughter of Kwang (Won) and Heung Kim. She was predeceased by her husband Joseph V. DiNardo. Kim was an avid walker and runner with Church St. and Water St., being part of her favorite route. She had been involved in the Chemung County and Empire State Senior Games for the past 18 years, winning numerous medals in many running events. Kim's most memorable accomplishment was winning a Gold Medal in the 5K run (women's 70-74 year old category) at the 2005 National Senior Games in Pittsburgh.



*continued page 5*

## COMMENDABLE KIDS



Griffin Squires

At the June meeting of the Town Board, three courageous young residents of West Elmira received official commendations from Police Chief, Pete Michalko. Abbey Squires, her brother, Griffin Squires and another boy, Joshua Augustine were walking home from school on May 14th when they observed a man lying still on the front ramp of the West Elmira Fire Department. The position of his body relative to his vehicle obscured him from view. Immediately, the kids called for help.



Joshua Augustine

Emergency first responders began life-saving measures, but the man, 44-year old fire service member, David "Gus" Schieffen remained unresponsive and was pronounced dead.

In his remarks, Chief Michalko commented on Schieffen's enthusiasm for teaching safety lessons to elementary school children; he was fondly remembered for his work at the annual Open House.



Abbey Squires

## Get to Know Your Neighbors

### Martha Horton and Marianna Raho

Residents of West Elmira hold onto your hats; this dynamic mother-daughter duo have recently arrived, bringing with them a dazzling array of accomplishments and passions, including world travel, writing, music, theater and more. Mother, Martha Horton is a well-known local poet, gardener, scholar, musician, published novelist and journalist. A member of both the Torch and Wednesday Morning Clubs, she sings with Cantata Singers and serves on the board of the Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery.



When she married local native, Keith Horton in the late-70s, she took the Autotrain from Florida to Upstate New York with two kids, their dogs, cats and car. After a brief stint in rural Horseheads, the Hortons settled in Pine City. Later, Martha renovated a gorgeous Clinton Street Victorian and a classic 1880s row home in the city's Near Westside Historic District. Her search for a one-story home, suitable for multigenerational living led her to an inauspicious West Elmira ranch that she has been transforming with her own personal flair and decorating touch for the past year. Outside, Martha is gradually turning the home's park-like setting into naturalized garden, working around the deer and occasional floods.



Daughter, Marianna Raho has traveled the world, coordinating trade show displays for well-known multi-national corporations. She lived in England singing, acting and teaching until fall of 2011 when she brought all those skills home. Now settled, she has just expanded her studio, Anyone Can Sing, offered an English Drama technique course at Community Arts of Elmira, as well as co-founded the L Roots and Wings Performing Arts Academy with Liz Schlickbernd.

With Martha and Marianna's combined energy and enthusiasm it's a wonder we haven't seen sparks escape under their door sash... yet!

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

To celebrate National Fire Prevention Week the West Elmira Fire Department treated the entire neighborhood to another spectacular Open House.



In the US more fires start in the kitchen than any other room of the house, so fire dog favorite, Sparky helped community members learn how they could prevent kitchen fires from starting at all. For more information on how you can protect your home and your family, check out the National Fire Protection Association at [FPW.org](http://FPW.org).



### Don't forget the 4 Cs!

- Change your batteries on smoke/carbon monoxide detectors
- Clean the chimney and/or fire box
- Confirm fire extinguishers are ready and available
- Call the Fire Department with any questions



## General Housekeeping



Town Hall Helps Spread Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley's Message

### The Town of Elmira Knows How to Share (Nicely!)

As part of another cost-saving shared services agreement, Town Assessor Melanie VanNoy (formerly Purcell) became a Town of Horseheads employee on September 11, 2013. Melanie has built a reputation of friendly openness, integrity and professionalism in the assessor's office for the past 14 years. She would like the residents to know that these traits will continue in her office even though she is a Town of Horseheads employee. She will be at the town hall on Tuesday and Thursday between 8:30 - 4:30. Her secretary Becky Carpenter will be available to take your calls Monday through Friday 8:30-4:30.

### STAR Facts

The STAR Registration Program has begun and Basic STAR recipients can now re-register on the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance website or by calling (518) 457-2036. Staff is ready to assist taxpayers during the following extended hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Commissioner of Taxation and Finance Thomas H. Mattox said, "The registration is fast, easy and secure, and will take most New Yorkers only two to four minutes."

As part of a statewide campaign to reach 2.6 million New York homeowners, the Department of Taxation and Finance has mailed STAR Registration letters that include instructions for the Department's easy, fast, and secure online application.

- ★ Basic homeowners have until December 31, 2013 to register - by telephone or online with NYS Taxation and Finance, not the assessor's office.
- ★ The STAR exemption is only available on a homeowner's primary residence.
- ★ The registration applies only to Basic STAR recipients. Senior citizens receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption are not affected by the registration. In order to continue receiving Enhanced STAR, seniors must continue to apply annually to participate in the Program.
- ★ Homeowners who will turn 65 anytime during the year 2014 may apply for the ENHANCED STAR with the assessor by MARCH 1, 2014.



## SEASONAL SHORTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

### Dogs Will Be Dogs

But they can be good neighbors, too! If you have an incessant barker, please bring your dog into the house or employ a "teaching tool" to discourage the behavior. Many people have early morning responsibilities and/or small children and they really need their sleep.

## House Number Template

**A single 4" home improvement could mean the difference between life and death!** Building Code Enforcement Officer Chip LeValley has found the absence of legible house numbers pretty widespread throughout the Town. He's so concerned for residents' safety he's willing to resort to issuing citations. "I'm going to start putting door-hangers on offending houses with a follow-up invitation to court if there's no compliance. Beyond UPS, FedEx and the pizza delivery person not knowing where a house is, the greater concern is that emergency responders may not be able to find a house quickly by seeing it's number."



Please help keep Chip happy and your family safe. Take this template to the nearest hardware store to pick out a great new set of 4" (at least) house numbers.

## Summer Hot Shots



**Swinging Sounds**



**Snazzy New Snack Shack... Sports a Flower Bed too**



**Fore!**



**Sports Campers**



**Community Garden Goodness**



**There it goes again!**

No worries, before you know it we'll be having fun-in-the-sun again at Pirozzolo Park. The folks on the Town Recreation Commission use the off season to plan a summer-full of events and offerings for the whole family. Summer 2013 included expanded summer camps (including science and math!) and even more music.

Watch the Fire Hall sign for upcoming events or check out our website at [westelmirapark.com](http://westelmirapark.com)



**Super Swimmers**





### What is Community-based Deer Management?

At the September meeting of the Town Board, senior wildlife biologist, Art Kirsch of the New York State DEC Bureau of Wildlife attempted to answer that question\*. Basically, it is determining if a problem exists and what steps residents and town officials are willing and able to take to address the perceived problem. Kirsch provided a variety of resources and recommended this survey as a necessary first step. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and either mail or drop this survey back to us. Thank you for your help.

Name	Address
Willing to serve on a deer management working group?	
*You can download Kirsch's presentation from the town's website ( <a href="http://www.townofelmira.com">www.townofelmira.com</a> )	
Where do you live?	
Has a physician diagnosed anyone in your household with Lyme Disease within the last three years?	
Have you or someone in your household been involved in a deer/car collision in the Town of Elmira?	
If yes, was the collision serious enough that it was reported to police?	
Was the collision serious enough to require hospitalization and/or a visit to the doctor's office?	
Have deer damaged your landscaping? Garden? Home? Other?	
Do you use fencing or other repellents to protect your landscaping/garden?	
Have deer created problems with your bird feeders?	
Which statement best fits your attitude toward deer in the Town of Elmira?	Deer do not cause any problems in the Town of Elmira. <input type="checkbox"/> Deer cause some problems, but they are not serious enough to worry about. <input type="checkbox"/> Deer cause significant problems and solutions must be found. <input type="checkbox"/>
Does anyone in your household hunt? If so, how many deer are usually taken and from where?	
What factors might influence hunters in your household to take more deer?	
Limited hunting available on public land?	
Butcher available who would donate venison to food bank?	

## Deer Survey cont'd

Does anyone in your household farm full or part-time in the Town of Elmira?

Has this farmer experienced crop losses due to deer predation in the last three years?

Please estimate your average yearly crop losses due to deer damage for the last three years?

Are there any crops you stopped planting due to actual or feared deer damage?

Have you planted sacrificial crops in order to protect your cash crops?                      How many acres?

Have you experienced any other deer-related expenses, such as additional fencing?

Approximately how much?

Do you allow hunting on your owned farmland?

Fold Here

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Please  
Affix  
Stamp

**Town of Elmira**  
1255 West Water Street  
Elmira, NY 14905  
Attn: Deer Management Working Group



## ESSENTIALS

### Town Website Links Residents to Services

A visit to our regularly updated website can save you valuable time and energy. You'll find schedules, forms, pages for town offices, contacts for employees and board members, as well as links to Town History, Town Recreation, even archived Town Talk newsletters.

[www.townofelmira.com](http://www.townofelmira.com)

### Envisioning a home improvement project this spring?

Do your homework this winter. A visit to the Buildings/Codes page can make your project go smoothly!

Here's what you'll find:

- New York State Building Codes
- Town Laws, Ordinances & Zoning
- NFIP Flood Info
- Floodplain Development Standards
- Stormwater Information Resource

### Plus... links to the following documents & maps:

- Building Permit Fees
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Town of Elmira Zoning Map
- Flood Zone Descriptions
- Clinton Street Drainage Development
- Chemung River Map Historic Flooding
- I want to build a deck! What do I need to do?

## Contact Us

### We Still answer the phones!

David Sullivan (Supervisor) 734-2031  
Jo Ann Sherwood (Town Clerk) 734-2031  
Lori Rupp (Deputy Clerk ) 734-2031  
Liz Lucarelli (Court Clerk ) 734-5971  
Fred (Chip) LeValley (Code Enforcement Officer) 734-3608  
Becky Carpenter (Deputy Clerk ) 734-1486  
Peter Michalko (Chief of Police ) 8:30 - 4:30 - 734-2031  
Matt Mustico (Highway Superintendent) 734-0199

Joe Cost (Bookkeeper) 734-2031  
Melanie VanNoy (Assessor) 734-1486

### Councilpersons

Ron Allison 734-6474  
Kenneth Bush 733-4373  
Thomas Milliken 732-6760  
Karen Krusen 734-9412



Police Business After Hours 735-8600

Town of Elmira  
1255 West Water Street  
Elmira, New York 14905

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# TOWN TALK

News from the Town of Elmira

F A L L - W I N T E R 2 0 1 3

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

### News

Kids Commended  
Wildlife Worries  
Shared Services Save

### Features

New Neighbors-Martha Horton & Marianna Raho  
House Number Template

Writer/Editor: Blink Creative Services  
Designer/Printer: Copy Express



Check us out on the Web: [www.townofelmira.com](http://www.townofelmira.com)